

Journal of Mediterranean Cities: Bridging Research, Policy, and Practice for Sustainable Urban Futures

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ABSTRACT

The Journal of Mediterranean Cities serves as a vital platform for addressing urban challenges in the Mediterranean region, with a focus on sustainability and resilience. It fosters interdisciplinary research integrating fields such as architecture, urban design, climate science, and sociology to inform regional policies and practical applications. The journal's core objectives include promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, shaping urban policies, and supporting young scholars. By bridging the gap between scientific inquiry and real-world implementation, it contributes to the sustainable development of Mediterranean cities, addressing issues like climate adaptation, socio-economic inequality, and historical preservation. Through open access, peer-reviewed research, and global collaborations, the journal strives to inspire innovative urban solutions and foster dialogue among academics, policymakers, and practitioners.

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1. Introduction

The Journal of Mediterranean Cities focuses on the study of urban challenges, promoting sustainable and resilient city planning, especially in the Mediterranean region. The journal prioritizes science-driven insights, aiming to shape regional policies through research. It serves as a platform for collaboration between architecture and urbanism schools to drive transformational integration.

The journal is committed to bridging the gap between scientific research and urban challenges, specifically tailored to the Mediterranean region. It stands at the intersection of cutting-edge architectural, environmental, and urban planning studies, providing invaluable insights to address the evolving demands of cities and their inhabitants. This scientific platform was developed with a firm belief in the transformative potential of research, with a goal to support the development of resilient, sustainable cities that can thrive in the face of global and regional challenges.

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2. Scientific Approach and Strategic Vision

At the heart of the journal's scientific approach lies a dedication to sustainability and resilience. The Mediterranean region is rich with diverse urban environments, each with its own set of opportunities and challenges (Gospodini, 2018). With a focus on interdisciplinary research, the journal draws from fields such as urban design, architecture, climate science, sociology, and economics to develop a comprehensive understanding of urban systems. The unique challenges posed by the Mediterranean climate, ranging from rising sea levels to increasing urban density and pollution, require innovative solutions deeply rooted in scientific inquiry (Hirt, 2020).

The journal's scientific strategy revolves around the integration of theory and practice. It encourages contributions that not only theorize but also provide practical applications. This is particularly important in the Mediterranean, where the impacts of climate change, migration, and socio-economic shifts are deeply felt. By promoting research that is both academically rigorous and practically applicable, the journal seeks to influence regional urban policies and planning decisions that are grounded in robust evidence.

Moreover, the Journal of Mediterranean Cities strives to become a central hub for dialogue among scholars, practitioners, and policymakers. Through collaborations with architectural and urban studies institutions worldwide, the journal envisions a shared knowledge base that transcends borders, encouraging the exchange of best practices and innovative approaches to city planning and design.

3. Objectives of the Journal

The primary objective of the Journal of Mediterranean Cities is to contribute to the sustainable development of Mediterranean cities by fostering an understanding of the unique urban issues that cities in this region face. These issues include, but are not limited to, climate adaptation, housing shortages, socio-economic inequalities, and historical preservation. The journal's secondary objectives include:

- a. Promoting interdisciplinary research: Encouraging papers that draw on a range of academic disciplines, from environmental studies to cultural history, creating a holistic understanding of the factors shaping Mediterranean cities.
- b. Shaping urban policies: Providing a platform for the dissemination of evidence-based research, with the aim to directly influence policy-making at the local and regional levels. Cities in the Mediterranean region face unique governance challenges, and the journal supports the development of resilient, sustainable policies that can withstand future challenges.
- c. Bridging the gap between academic research and practical implementation: The journal is committed to ensuring that the insights gained from the research published are applied in practice, benefiting city planners, architects, and local governments.
- d. Supporting young researchers and scholars: Providing a platform for the next generation of urban planners and architects to showcase their research and ideas, thus inspiring fresh perspectives on the challenges facing Mediterranean cities.
- e. Fostering international collaboration: Bringing together scholars from across the globe to share expertise and contribute to the sustainable development of Mediterranean cities. Collaboration is key to solving the complex problems of urbanization, and by working together, more can be achieved than any one institution or individual could alone.

4. Significance of the Mediterranean Region

The Mediterranean region holds unparalleled importance due to its rich cultural heritage, strategic geopolitical position, and unique environmental conditions (Albrechts, 2020). Historically, it has been a cradle of civilizations, and today, it continues to be a dynamic region experiencing rapid urbanization,

migration, and socio-economic transformations. Cities in the Mediterranean face pressing challenges, such as the effects of climate change, resource scarcity, and increasing population density. These challenges necessitate innovative urban planning strategies that balance growth with sustainability. The Mediterranean's fragile ecosystems, compounded by rising sea levels and shifting weather patterns, present urgent environmental concerns. Furthermore, the region's diverse socio-political landscape demands policies that address not only environmental sustainability but also social equity and economic resilience. Addressing these multifaceted issues is critical to ensuring the prosperity of Mediterranean cities.

5. The Role of the Journal in the Mediterranean

A scientific journal like the Journal of Mediterranean Cities plays a pivotal role in driving regional development by contributing research that informs and inspires action on issues that matter most to the Mediterranean. By serving as a bridge between research, policy, and practice, the journal facilitates cross-border collaboration, bringing together experts to generate solutions that reflect the shared yet distinct challenges of the region.

The journal's contributions support local governments, urban planners, and policymakers in adopting evidence-based strategies that promote sustainable urban development, mitigate the effects of climate change, and improve the quality of life for residents. By disseminating cutting-edge research, it provides a platform for knowledge exchange, inspiring innovation in architecture, city planning, and environmental management, while fostering a shared vision for the future of the Mediterranean.

6. Achieving the Journal's Vision

To achieve its ambitious vision, the Journal of Mediterranean Cities follows a multi-faceted strategy:

- a. **Rigorous Peer Review Process:** The journal ensures high academic standards by implementing a rigorous peer-review process for every submission. This guarantees the credibility of the research published and supports the journal's mission to influence urban policy and practice with well-grounded insights.
- b. **Collaborative Research Networks:** Encouraging collaboration between researchers from different disciplines and geographic regions ensures that the journal's published research is diverse in scope and reflective of the myriad challenges faced by cities in the Mediterranean. These networks facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices that can be applied in different urban contexts.
- c. **Open Access and Broad Dissemination:** Committed to the principle of open access, the journal believes that knowledge should be freely available to everyone, especially when it comes to public interest matters like sustainable urban development. By making research accessible to a global audience, the journal hopes to inspire change and foster learning across the Mediterranean and beyond.
- d. **Focus on Real-World Applications:** While academic rigor is crucial, the journal also places a strong emphasis on research that has real-world applications. The Mediterranean region is facing an unprecedented wave of urbanization, and the challenges that come with it—such as resource scarcity, infrastructure stress, and climate vulnerability—require solutions that can be implemented practically and in a timely manner. The research published informs architects, urban planners, and government officials who can apply these findings to their own work.
- e. **Global and Local Case Studies:** To provide a comprehensive understanding of urban issues, the journal features research that spans a range of cities across the Mediterranean, as well as comparable urban contexts from other parts of the world. This allows for rich comparative analysis and highlights successful interventions that can be adapted and applied to Mediterranean cities.
- f. **Engaging with Policymakers and Urban Practitioners:** In addition to serving the academic community, the journal actively engages with policymakers, urban planners, and architects. By

making its research accessible to these groups and providing them with actionable insights, the journal aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice, contributing to the development of more sustainable and resilient cities.

7. Conclusions

The Journal of Mediterranean Cities is a beacon of scholarly inquiry into the unique challenges facing urban environments in the Mediterranean region. Its commitment to sustainability, resilience, and interdisciplinary research is at the core of its mission. Through collaboration with global academic institutions, policymakers, and urban practitioners, the journal fosters innovative solutions that will shape the future of Mediterranean cities for generations to come.

By exploring the journal's latest issues, readers can join in the journey toward creating sustainable urban futures. Together, resilient, vibrant, and equitable cities responsive to the needs of their citizens can be built across the Mediterranean.

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